

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 20 and 22 of the above-identified application as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising: a supply conduit, which is connectable to a gas source and which includes an outlet end, and a porous body, which is manufactured of a foam rubber-like material and is provided at said outlet end, wherein the device is arranged to permittransmit said supply of gas through the porous body to create a protective gas atmosphere in the area, the device includes an attachment member, which includes a first surface and a second surface and a continuous channel extending through the surface~~second and first surfaces, respectively~~, wherein the porous body is attached to said first surface and wherein the outlet end is connected to the attachment member for permittingtransmitting said supply via~~in a direction through said outlet end, said channel and said porous body, respectively, for creating said protective gas atmosphere.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first surface of the attachment member covers substantially the whole porous body seen in a first direction extending from the attachment member through the body.

3. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein

the attachment member includes a sleeve, which extends outwardly away from the porous body and which is connected to the outlet end, wherein the channel extends through the sleeve.

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 23, wherein the sleeve extends in a direction forming an angle to the first direction x, wherein said angle is 0 to 90°.

5. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 3, wherein the supply conduit projects into the sleeve, or that the sleeve projects into the supply conduit.

6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 2, wherein the attachment member and the porous body are substantially circular seen in the first direction x.

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 6, wherein the porous body has a substantially semispherical surface which faces away from the attachment member.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the supply conduit includes at least a first conduit portion with a casing of a

material, which has a large flexibility, and with a means for stiffening, which extends along the casing and has a lower flexibility than the casing.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means is plastically deformable.

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means includes a metal wire.

11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 8, wherein the stiffening means ~~extend~~extends substantially freely within the first conduit portion of the supply conduit.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the foam rubber-like material includes polyurethane foam with open cells.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the porous body includes a homogenous body.

16. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the device includes a filter, which is arranged on the supply conduit for filtering said gas flowing through the supply conduit.

17. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said gas includes a main component which is carbon dioxide.

18. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the porous body is arranged to supply said gas in a control flow in order to enable deformation of a gas cushion, which is intended to substantially fill a volume at said area and thus prevents air from the surroundings to reach said area.

19. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein said area adjoins an inner portion of the body of a human being or an animal, which portion is open outwardly towards the surroundings, wherein the porous body is arranged to be located at said outwardly open inner portion.

20. (Currently Amended) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

a supply conduit connectable to a gas source, including an outlet end;

an attachment member connected to said outlet end and including a first surface, a second surface located opposite said first surface, and a centrally located continuous channel configured for receiving said supply conduit and extending through both said second and first surfaces, respectively; and

a porous body provided at said outlet end and having a proximal end attached to said first surface and a distal end free of attachment, the device porous body being in direct fluid communication with said supply conduit and arranged to permit transmit the supply of gas in a direction through the outlet end, the channel and the porous body, respectively, for creating a protective gas atmosphere in the area.

21. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 20, wherein said porous body is manufactured of a permeable material including at least one of paper, felt, sinter metal and filter material.

22. (Currently Amended) A device for the supply of a gas to an area, comprising:

a supply conduit connectable to a gas source and including an outlet end;

an attachment member including a first surface, a second surface located opposite said first surface, a sleeve surrounding said conduit and directly projecting from said second surface; and a continuous channel extending through

~~both said sleeve and said~~ second and first surfaces, respectively, ~~and a sleeve surrounding said conduit and projecting from said second surface;~~ and

a porous body projecting from said first surface in a direction opposite from said sleeve, said porous body having at least twice the thickness of said attachment member;

wherein said porous body is in direct fluid communication with said outlet end to permit transmit the supply of gas in a direction through said outlet end, said channel and said porous body, respectively, for creating a protective gas atmosphere in the area.